

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An aberration correction liquid crystal device to be mounted in an optical pickup apparatus for applying a laser beam emitted from a laser light source onto different types of optical discs, and to be disposed on an optical axis of the laser beam, the device comprising:

a first electrode section to be placed on the side of the laser light source and having a first electrode pattern for correcting aberration concerning a first optical disc, the first electrode pattern being defined by a first group of electrodes;

a second electrode section to be placed on the side of the optical disc and having a second electrode pattern for correcting aberration concerning a second optical disc different from the first optical disc in type, the second electrode pattern being defined by a second group of electrodes; and

a liquid crystal being sandwiched between the first and the second electrode sections, wherein in correcting the aberration concerning the first optical disc, the first electrode pattern is applied with a voltage and all of the second group of electrodes are placed in equipotential state, and

wherein in correcting the aberration concerning the second optical disc, the second electrode pattern is applied with a voltage and all of the first group of electrodes are placed in equipotential state.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An optical pickup apparatus that read or write information from or onto different types of optical discs, the optical pickup apparatus comprising:

 a laser light source configured to emit a laser beam;
 an object lens configured to converge the laser beam on an optical disc; and
 an aberration correction liquid crystal device configured to be disposed between the laser light source and the object lens, and on an optical axis of the laser beam,
 wherein the aberration correction liquid crystal device comprises:
 a first electrode section to be placed on the side of the laser light source and having a first electrode pattern for correcting aberration concerning a first optical disc, the first electrode pattern being defined by a first group of electrodes;
 a second electrode section to be placed on the side of the optical disc and having a second electrode pattern for correcting aberration concerning a second optical disc different from the first optical disc in type, the second electrode pattern being defined by a second group of electrodes;
 a liquid crystal being sandwiched between the first and the second electrode sections,
 wherein in correcting the aberration concerning the first optical disc, the first electrode pattern is applied with a voltage and all of the second group of electrodes are placed in equipotential state, and

wherein in correcting the aberration concerning the second optical disc, the second electrode pattern is applied with a voltage and all of the first group of electrodes are placed in equipotential state.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first electrode pattern is specifically configured for correcting aberration concerning only the first optical disc, and wherein the second electrode pattern is specifically configured for correcting aberration concerning only the second optical disc.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first electrode pattern is specifically configured for correcting aberration concerning only the first optical disc, and wherein the second electrode pattern is specifically configured for correcting aberration concerning only the second optical disc.

Claim 9 (New): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the equipotential state is at a voltage level of 0 volts.

Claim 10 (New): The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the equipotential state is at a voltage level of 0 volts.

Claim 11 (New): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first group of electrodes are concentrically arranged with one another.

Claim 12 (New): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second group of electrodes are concentrically arranged with one another.

Claim 13 (New): The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first group of electrodes are concentrically arranged with one another.

Claim 14 (New): The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second group of electrodes are concentrically arranged with one another.